

REGARDING AMERICAN GOLD  
STAR MOTHERS DAY**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2005*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, September 25th, is American Gold Star Mothers' Day. This important day honors not only fallen patriots, but the grieving families they left behind.

Throughout our America's history, brave men and women have left their mothers and fathers to take up arms in defense of this Nation and its ideals. Sadly, many of these heroes never return home. Although our nation will be forever grateful of their ultimate sacrifice, too often we do not remember the sacrifice of their families, especially mothers, who are left behind.

For over 75 years, the American Gold Star Mothers organization has stood strong in support of mothers who have lost their children in service to this country. Serving as a support group and a service organization, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc is a shining example of American compassion and strength. I am thankful to have an American Gold Star Mothers' chapter in Wichita, tirelessly serving and supporting one another in south-central Kansas.

This Sunday, I hope we can all take a moment to remember the sacrifices made for this country and say a prayer for the families that were left behind. I know that it is not natural for a parent to experience the loss of a child. They deserve our love, support and gratitude. We will never forget those who served and those who lost.

May God bless America, and may God bless our Gold Star Mothers.

## RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN R. DIXON

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. John R. Dixon of Brookfield, Missouri. Dr. Dixon will celebrate his 100th birthday on September 14th, and the town of Brookfield will be honoring Dr. Dixon's birthday with a parade among other festivities. It is my privilege to offer Dr. Dixon my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone.

Dr. Dixon was born on September 14, 1905. In 1931, Dr. Dixon opened his first medical practice as a physician and surgeon in Linneus, Missouri, a few miles northwest of Brookfield. In 1935, Dr. Dixon joined the Missouri National Guard which began a long career of patriotic service to our national through the Armed Services. Dr. Dixon served the United States of America with honor as a flight surgeon in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Dr. Dixon still maintains his license to practice medicine, plays golf once a week, and drives himself. He is an active, vibrant, and healthy member of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Dr. John R. Dixon of Brookfield, Missouri as he begins his tenth decade. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

SAM DURAN: THE SAN DIEGO CHICANO  
FEDERATION'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD!**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Sam Duran has devoted more than 30 years of his life to empowering, advocating and improving the lives of inner city youth. As the founding chief executive (CEO) of the Urban Corps of San Diego, Sam has grown the organization from its original budget of \$120,000 to more than \$5 million. Under his direction, the organization has been responsible for training, employing and providing educational opportunities for 5,700 at-risk youth.

The mission of the Urban Corps of San Diego is to provide job training and educational opportunities to young adults in the fields of conservation, recycling and community service, which assists them in becoming more employable, while protecting San Diego's natural resources and instilling the importance of community involvement.

Sam's passion is empowering youth. He inspires leadership by helping young people provide for themselves through solid education and environmental job training within a structured environment. It has been through Sam's continuous personal belief and commitment to empowering underprivileged youth from all walks of life, and giving back to the community through integrity and hard work, that the Urban Corps of San Diego has had the honor of being the only conservation corps to have ever received a grant from the Smithsonian Museum to conduct a survey of all outdoor sculptures in the county of San Diego. The Urban Corps assessed and cataloged the condition of San Diego's outdoor sculptures in order for the Smithsonian to begin the important and much-needed work of repairing and preserving them for future generations to cherish and enjoy.

He has been a committed community leader, environmentalist and activist for his entire adult life. During his tenure as Academy Superintendent for the California Conservation Corps from 1978–1980, Sam oversaw the life skills training for 740 youth per month. As a board member of the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, Citizens for Clean Air Policy and EarthShare of California, he is actively involved in statewide conservation efforts and has contributed to the empowerment of youth in the conservation and environmental fields through education and vocational job training.

Sam also served as the Deputy Director of Eureka Communities, a nonprofit organization created by San Diego philanthropist Deborah Szekely, to increase the capacity of executive directors of community-based organizations to improve the lives of children, youth and families in need. In that role, he encouraged other nonprofit leaders to raise environmental awareness in their organizations and communities; to better the lives of disadvantaged children and youth; and to create forums for learning exchanges that would expose leaders to effective methods and best practices throughout San Diego and the nation.

In addition to his service on the task force created to advise President Bill Clinton on

AmeriCorps, Sam serves on the boards of the San Diego Juvenile Justice Prevention Commission, the San Diego Maritime Museum, the Conservation Corps State Museum, San Diego Riverpark Foundation and the Farmworkers Institute for Education & Leadership Development (FIELD).

Sam is also a decorated Vietnam veteran who holds a Bronze Star and an Air Force Commendation with two Oak leaf clusters.

Congratulations, Sam, on this Award for Community Service!

## RECOGNIZING DR. FRANK BROWN

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2005*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the accomplishments of a great citizen of the Eighth Congressional District, Dr. Frank Brown.

Dr. Brown is best known to those of us from Georgia as the President of Columbus State University, and has served in that capacity since 1988. Dr. Brown has overseen the dramatic growth of the university, and worked closely with the City of Columbus to make the school a central part of the city.

But we were able to see another side of Dr. Brown last month, when he was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award by the Boy Scouts of America, Chattahoochee Council. The Chattahoochee Council gives the award to recognize an individual or group that undertakes outstanding service to our nation, the state, or the local community. By presenting the award, the Chattahoochee Council calls attention to the honors the contributions and good works of individuals.

Dr. Brown is a worthy recipient, due to his commitment to his community. It is my privilege to lay such an achievement before the House.

IN HONOR OF THE OPENING OF  
THE ANDERSON-ABRUZZO INTER-  
NATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to commemorate the opening of The Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This museum celebrates and honors the long-standing tradition of ballooning in the Land of Enchantment. This opening is the culmination of a tremendous effort on the part of the Anderson and Abruzzo families and devoted friends and business partners, all of whom have shared in the vision and dream to create a world class collection of ballooning memorabilia and equipment.

The exhibits and programs stand as a testament to the history, science and art of ballooning. This museum will be a significant addition to the city known as the "The Balloon Capital of the World" and will prove to be a wonderful complement to Albuquerque's annual International Balloon Fiesta.